

Geographic Review Panel 4 – San Joaquin River

Proposal number: 2001-L204

Short Proposal Title: Fish Treadmill Continued Funding

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. This project would contribute to the CALFED goal of at-risk species recovery and conservation and protection and recovery of harvestable species. Similarly this is consistent with one CVPIA objective to reduce entrainment of anadromous fish at water diversion facilities in order to help restore populations of anadromous fish.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. This is a proposed 2-year extension to an ongoing evaluation of the near-field water diversion affects (debris, flow, and other environmental conditions) on the entrainment and survival of multiple anadromous and native Delta species. There are several large (by San Joaquin River standards) diversions on the mainstem San Joaquin. This project could have linkages and benefits to the proposed Patterson Fish Screen design proposal in this PSP, and has likely benefited the design for Banta-Carbona fish screen that has yet to be built. This project has much greater importance to the Delta and Sacramento River system where large diversions are more prevalent.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. This Panel believes that this project is feasible as it is a continuing project that has a proven lab track record, but it is unknown how this will transfer to field application.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. Qualified. No one other than this PI and his research team have the experience with this intensively controlled environment apparatus that can be used to evaluate the response of multiple fish species in relation to different fish screen design features.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). No local involvement is necessary as this is a lab study. The research team is committed to dissemination of experimental results in multiple scientific venues.

6. Cost. The budget primarily consists of 5 different UC Davis staffs at various pay scales, and one CDFG staff. The only questionable cost is the \$21,000 for travel by the CDFG staff, unless that will go toward a vehicle.

7. Cost sharing. The Principal Investigators salary will be contributed by UC Davis, which constitutes about 6% of the requested funds.

8. Additional comments.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: This is likely a worthy project that will help managers to further protect multiple fish species at permanent diversions that will likely be screened, even though it does not directly promote ecosystem processes. Also, this is not a high priority for the San Joaquin region. The Panel is aware of only two large instream diversions that remain to be screened in the San Joaquin, all others are small riparian diversions. A study focusing on small riparian diversions would have more relevance for our region.